Rick Barrett 3-14-10

Periods 1-2 Lab Report

1. A reference and a blank were used in each test so that we could tell if there were specific ions in each of the things we tested. The reference showed us what the chemical reaction would look like if there was the ion. If the reference was cloudy, then we knew that if anything turned cloudy, than it contained the ion.
2. A qualitative test just shows if an ion is in the substance, not how much there is. So it wouldn’t be hard to maybe find a little bit of a substance, and mistakenly think there’s more than there should be. This could set off unnecessary alarms.
3. These tests cannot confirm the absence of an ion because they may not detect small amounts. These are qualitative tests so if there is a small amount of a dangerous ion, a reaction might not occur, leading people to believe that there is none. When it could in fact be extremely dangerous.
4. Our observations might have changed if we had not cleaned out our wells and stirring rods after each test because the wells and stirring rods would be contaminated. If we didn’t wash them then the substance we were just using them for would remain on them, ruining anything we did with them after. We could move ions from one substance to another and not even know it, and we would then think the newly contaminated substance would contain that ion, when it might not actually possess it.